

Clive and Ruth were both born and raised in the United Kingdom. Reverend Clive Knights was educated at Edgware School, followed by North London and Salford Universities. He then received ministerial training from St. Alban's Diocese at Stevenage and Madingly Hall, Cambridge University, commencing his Anglican ministry on St. Matthew's Day, September 21, 1987. Reverend Ruth Knights, the daughter of a reverend, received her higher education at Southlands Teacher Training College and Birmingham University, where she majored in Divinity and Theology. Following graduation, Ruth taught Religious Studies in high school and became head of a religious studies department.

In 2003, the Lord called Reverends Clive and Ruth Knights to come to the United States. The Knights settled in Northwest Florida, where Reverend Clive Knights became Senior Pastor at Chumuckla Community Church. Reverend Ruth Knights also helped serve the community's religious needs when she joined the staff at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, where she currently serves as an Associate Pastor. After nearly a decade at Chumuckla Community Church, Reverend Clive Knights moved to Bagdad United Methodist Church, where he is the Senior Pastor.

As former President Theodore Roosevelt said, "Free institutions rest upon the character of citizenship." Reverends Clive and Ruth Knights exemplify the high character, leadership, and faith that have been the hallmarks of so many great American citizens. On behalf of the entire United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate Clive and Ruth and welcome them as fellow citizens of this great Nation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that on March 4, 2014, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 488, supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democracy, a reduction in violent crime and calling for an end to recent violence. I am pleased that this resolution expressing support for basic human rights passed the House decisively.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOBBY O'GUREK, RECIPIENT OF THE PANTHER VALLEY IRISH AMERICANS ASSOCIATION SHAMROCK AWARD

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bobby O'Gurek, who on March 17, 2014 will receive the Shamrock Award from the Panther Valley Irish Americans Association. Bobby was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1982, to Robert and Patricia O'Gurek. He has lived with cerebral palsy since birth, and become an indispensable part of his community.

He graduated from Panther Valley High School in 1999, where he was named the "Most Persistent Student." Bobby went on to Lehigh County Community College, where he earned his associate's degree as a Computer Specialist with a concentration in Web Development. After college, Bobby began designing websites for S & O Computers, LLC. In 2010, he established his own web design business. To date, Bobby's company has designed and maintained 19 websites for local government offices and small businesses.

Since he was a teenager, Bobby has volunteered his time to keep his community safe as a member of the volunteer Diligence Fire Company No. 1 in Summit Hill, Pennsylvania. After joining in 1994, he is now a senior member, auditor and trustee of the Fire Company, and he contributes his technological expertise to designing and maintaining the Fire Company's web page.

Although cerebral palsy prevents him from walking and speaking on his own, Bobby is involved with many outreach programs to spread awareness about disabilities. In 1998, he started speaking via the assistance of technology at the Pittsburgh Employment conference, hosted for speech pathologists and individuals with all kinds of disabilities who use augmentative communication technologies. Bobby was selected in 2007 to receive the Edwin and Ester Prentke AAC Distinguished Lecture Award in Boston, an award presented annually to a community activist who uses a communication device. He was asked to give a speech at a Massachusetts conference entitled "My Life with Assistive Technology and Community Interactions." Bobby is also a participant of "Through Their Eyes" conference at East Stroudsburg University, where he has addressed students majoring Speech Pathology. He is also an ambassador for Prentke Romich Company, increasing knowledge across Pennsylvania about the assistive technology that helps him communicate.

Bobby O'Gurek's work throughout his life has made his community a safer and brighter place. His perseverance in overcoming cerebral palsy to get his education and start his own business, his willingness to devote his time and technological skills to serve the Panther Valley, and his refusal to let his disability prevent him from achieving his goals are nothing short of inspirational. I congratulate Bobby O'Gurek on his years of service to his community and wish him many more.

#### DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR GAO ZHISHENG

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a piece published in the Wall Street Journal on February 27 highlighting the latest disappearance into the Chinese security system of the prominent human rights defender Gao Zhisheng. It is deeply alarming that Mr. Gao has been in and out of the Chinese prisons, disappeared, and tortured for almost a decade now. As the op-ed piece by Jared Genser, Gao's pro bono legal counsel, notes, "... no one has seen or heard from him since January 2013." Following his most recent disappearance, Gao's

courageous wife, who has testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, filed a complaint to the United Nations, urging it to conduct an investigation into his whereabouts.

I have "adopted" Gao through the Defending Freedoms Project, an initiative of the Lantos Commission, launched in conjunction with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and Amnesty International. I am committed to continuing work towards the day when he can breathe the fresh air of freedom. I echo the sentiments of Mr. Genser, who concluded in the Journal piece, "It is time to reunite Gao Zhisheng with his family. He and his loved ones have suffered long enough."

#### DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR GAO ZHISHENG

(By Jared Genser)

Gao Zhisheng, one of China's most prominent and courageous human-rights lawyers and prisoners of conscience, has again disappeared into the bowels of the Chinese state's security system. For more than a year, his family has desperately tried to access him in Shaya prison in Xinjiang, a remote province in western China. But all these efforts have been rebuffed and no one has seen or heard from him since January 2013. In response to Mr. Gao's most recent disappearance, his wife on Thursday in Geneva filed a complaint to the United Nations, urging it to conduct an investigation into his whereabouts.

A self-taught advocate and legal rights defender, Mr. Gao was once recognized among the country's top 10 lawyers by China's Ministry of Justice. Yet his advocacy for the country's most vulnerable, including factory workers, coal miners, victims of land seizures, and persecuted Christians and Falun Gong practitioners, led the authorities to target Mr. Gao and his family with threats and intimidation starting in 2005. He has been in and out of prisons and subject to disappearances and torture for nearly a decade.

Officials closed his law firm, disbarred him and placed his wife, Geng He, and their young children under 24-hour surveillance. Police stationed inside the family's home repeatedly harassed them. In school, the children were taunted and put under constant watch by the police—even when using the restroom. Because of this unbearable treatment, Geng He and her children fled China and have since been granted asylum in the United States.

Mr. Gao's family is safe now, but he remains in danger. In 2006, he made a coerced confession to "inciting subversion" and was given a suspended three-year prison term. In 2007, Chinese officials tortured him by shocking him with electric batons, holding lit cigarettes up to his eyes, and piercing his genitals with toothpicks. On other occasions, they put him in restraints and beat him repeatedly with handguns. In 2009 and 2010, police disappeared Mr. Gao and tortured him further.

In December 2011, just before the expiration of his suspended sentence and after 20 months of having been held in unknown locations, the Xinhua news agency announced that Mr. Gao would be imprisoned for the remainder of his original sentence. Since then, family members have been allowed to visit him only twice for half an hour on each occasion. Although scheduled for release on Aug. 22, he has now disappeared once again, leaving his family with renewed and urgent questions about his health and safety.

Mr. Gao's imprisonment, torture and disappearances have brought tremendous suffering to him and his family. In testifying recently before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gao's daughter Grace